

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 11 JAN 50

SUBJECT Rapprochement of Red and Blue Syndicates in
Cabimas

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1. During the week prior to 13 December 1949 two joint manifestoes of the Sindicato de Obreros y Empleados Petroleros, blue syndicate (SOEP) and Sindicato de Trabajadores Petroleros, red syndicate (STP) appeared in Cabimas, Venezuela. They attacked the Creole Petroleum Corporation (Standard Oil of New Jersey) for the shutdown of its small refinery at Cabimas and stated that their syndicates had sent Angel Gutierrez and Aquiles Ramirez, blue and red claims agents respectively, as a committee to Caracas to take up the matter directly with the Labor Minister. The composition and tenor of these communiques followed the usual line of Communist propaganda in that area and are obviously the handiwork of the reds.
2. This is the first evidence of a weakening in the blue directorate's determined stand against the reds, and of its willingness to collaborate with the reds in syndicate affairs in the all-important Cabimas sector.
3. It is now felt by the oil companies in that area that red-blue liaison and cooperation will soon emulate that of the corresponding syndicates at Lagunillas. This leaves only Tia Juana (which is hemmed in between Cabimas and Lagunillas) to hold out against blue collaboration with the reds in the Bolivar District.
4. It should be said, however, that, like Lagunillas and other districts where red-blue syndicate parallel action is going on, this collaboration is only an attempt of the blue syndicate directorate to survive continued government suppression and does not reflect the feeling of the rank and file of the blue constituency. It can safely be said at this time that an overwhelming majority of the blue workers in the Bolivar District are opposed to any "unity" or merger with the reds.
5. However, inasmuch as the reds have the facilities and organization of the COSUTRAPET or red federation and are the only national federation authorized to act in labor-management affairs at the present time, a great many workers may approve or go along at least with a certain degree of parallel syndicate action, provided the blues were not to be taken over or lose their identity. This is a very real danger, however, as Communist leaders are far more astute and prepared in syndicate and political matters than the blues and are bent on "unity".

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6. Membership and influence of the Union Republicana Democratica (URD) maroon syndicates and the Catholic COPEI or green syndicates in the Bolivar District remain about static, probably because of a pre-holiday letdown in political and syndical activity.
7. Maracaibo Labor Inspector Jesus Baez Meneses stated [REDACTED] that he had recently sent a comprehensive detailed report of red-blue liaison and syndicate cooperation in the Bolivar District to the Minister at Caracas in order to apprise the Minister of this important trend in the local syndical movement. Baez Meneses is awaiting government reaction to his report.

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